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# FIERCE GALE AND HIGH SEAS LEFT DEATH AND DESOLATION IN WAKE

## DAMAGE WILL PROBABLY REACH \$4,000,000.00 AND POSSIBLY MORE

### WATER FRONT IS SCENE OF RUIN AND DISASTER

Two Big L. & N. Wharves are All that is Left on Water Front.

ONLY A FEW VESSELS ESCAPED

Muscogee, Perdido, Palafox and Baylen Wharves All Gone.

THE WORK OF YEARS, REPRESENTING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, ALL DEMOLISHED IN A SINGLE NIGHT BY AWFUL FURY OF THE ELEMENTS.

Like an avalanche—like a sudden blow from a mailed hand—as irresistible as Fate, and as inexorable as the Powers of Evil themselves—the hurricane that swept Pensacola Wednesday night and Thursday morning, fell upon the city with an all-compelling force and fury that no man could withstand or understand.

In the teeth of the tremendous gale that poured its Titanic strength through these streets from midnight of Wednesday to after daylight Thursday morning, the strongest man quailed, and felt that he was as nothing in the relentless grasp of Nature.

That gale needed only an opening to do its deadly work of destruction. It crept under the tin roofing of stores and warehouses, and the next moment tore the great metal sheets from their fastenings, and sent them whirling and whining through the rain-swept streets.

It held up strong men and shook them as a cat shakes a mouse. It caught great sticks of timber in its mighty grasp and dashed them down again in wanton waste.

It piled up the waters of the great deep, and spread them over the shore, until they worked their will high among the busy haunts of men.

And all was grief that came to its mill, engulfed by the insatiable maw of the hurricane—which at times almost seemed animated by a soul and inspired by a demonic intelligence—ships, wrecks, wreckage—the thousand and one bits of the jigsaw and flatness of the sea and its shores—were again cast forth and churned in a wild swelter of foam into an indescribable chaos of wanton waste, in which appeared and disappeared the frail work of mortal hands, broken, dismembered and cast aside.

The hurricane did all this—and more; and no man who felt the awful strength and power of that mysterious force, but felt that he was as nothing in the eyes of Him who guides the whirlwind and directs the storm.

**THE DAMAGE ESTIMATED**  
FROM \$2,000,000.00 TO \$4,000,000.00

No satisfactory estimate of the damage of this great disaster at Pensacola can be made. Some placed it at \$2,000,000.00. Others believed it would run to \$4,000,000.00. Probably the latter figure is more nearly correct. Whatever it is, no one can ever definitely estimate it. No one can ever compute the damage which the work of years along the water front and the enterprise and ambitions of

"those who go down to the sea in ships" have suffered, while the destruction in the business and residence portions of the city, where stocks of goods, business blocks, fences, sidewalks, shade trees, and residence properties, though much easier repaired, can never be estimated.

The damage to the fishing industry alone, which was suffered by E. E. Saunders & Co., and the Warren Fish Co., will probably aggregate a third of a million dollars—possibly half a million—and the tow-boat industry, with the countless lighter, launch and small craft equipment which goes with it, will aggregate as much more.

The great L. & N. wharves—Tarragona street and Commandancia street—which have been the pride of the city, are still standing, but it is believed that great damage has been done them by the heavy vessels which crashed into their sides. Muscogee wharf—the big coal export structure—is broken in two and will require many thousands of dollars for repair.

The wharf of E. E. Saunders & Co., and the Warren Fish Co., are completely gone as is also the wharf of the P. A. & T. Railroad at Perdido. These are the largest objects of the storm's fury along the water front, though not a single smaller wharf or structure of any kind within reach of the waves escaped. All are totally lost.

Of the big ocean going vessels, both steam and sail, by far the greatest portion are either ashore or are badly damaged from contact with wharves and the various wreckage that formed a part of the great disaster. A few of these vessels were anchored far out in the bay and these are presumed to be safe, but they constituted only a small part of the total shipping in the harbor.

Elsewhere the work of the storm is told in fuller detail.

### TOM HARRIS AND FAMILY ARE SAFE

CAPT. JOHN WALTER, WHO WAS REPORTED LOST ALSO SHOWS UP.

Tom Harris, wife and child, of Big Bayou, who was reported had been drowned, turned up all right last night, as also did Capt. John Walter, who had been working all day with his boat.

Mr. Harris lives in his store and residence at Palmetto Beach and he escaped from there with his wife and child in a skiff at one o'clock Thursday morning. His house was located near the dummy line at the Big Bayou station and in order to reach high ground he had to cross the narrow neck of the water over which the foot bridge there runs. This was full of timber and wreckage, all churned together in a seething mass, and the wind was blowing so fiercely that a lantern was of no use. With the assistance of a man named Castro, who held the baby, Mr. Harris managed to work his boat across the water and the party landed on the beach among the trees, to which they clung until they could see their way to a higher point of safety.

Mr. Harris says his loss of household goods and stock will aggregate \$3,500.00.

### MANAGER CROCKETT RETURNS TO CITY FROM FLOMATON

Manager Crockett, of the Western Union Telegraph, who left here early yesterday morning on a special train for Floamatton returned this morning about 1 o'clock. He handled his business, and he reports that each day he intends forwarding dispatches to that point until connection can be restored.

He reports that no connection could be had with Mobile, New Orleans, Gulfport, or any of the ports along the gulf coast, either by the office at Floamatton or by the central office at Atlanta, which has not heard from these places since Wednesday.

Fears are entertained that a bad wreck occurred on the Southern Alabama division, when a train on this, went through a culvert. The engineer, fireman, conductor and, in fact, the entire train crew suffered injuries, but no fatalities resulted.

## THE JOURNAL STARTS A RELIEF FUND TO CARE FOR HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE

**RELIEF FUND**  
The Pensacola Journal ... \$50.00  
W. A. D'Alemberte ... 25.00

The terrific destruction of homes and property along the water front has rendered hundreds of people homeless and many of them are absolutely destitute. No one who has not witnessed the scenes of destitution and disaster can appreciate the condition of these homeless and hungry, wet and cold men and women

and children. They need help and they need it NOW. They must have clothes, food and shelter. There is but one way that this can be supplied and that is by those who were more fortunate and are able to give and help. The Journal will start the work of relief by a subscription of \$50.00 which it will pay immediately to the first properly organized general relief authority which will use it. The Journal also has a check from W. A. D'Alemberte for \$25.00 for this relief fund. The work of relief should commence at once—this morning. The Journal's relief fund will help start it, and this paper will be glad to receive other subscriptions during the day for that fund, or if more convenient, they can be paid at any of the city banks. But above all things, let us act now.

## BLOWN ACROSS BAY ON HOSPITAL ROOF

### Terrible Experience of Eight Seamen During Wednesday Night, Three of Whom Were Drowned—Other Victims of Storm.

The hospital at the quarantine station was carried away about midnight, and among the inmates were eight seamen from a British steamer which is detained there. As the building fell into the water, these eight men grasped the roof, and spent the entire night upon the bay. Yesterday morning five of them clinging to wreckage were washed ashore at Fisherville, and were later taken to the Marine Hospital. Three of the men gave out in the struggle for life and were lost in the storm.

**Body of Girl Found.**  
The body of an unknown girl was found last night about 8 o'clock at the foot of Clubbs street, in the western section of the city. It is believed that the entire family has been drowned, and that they lived along the beach near that point. The girl is believed to be a Creole, but the body has been in the water apparently for some time, and the color is not easily distinguished. Coroner Nielsen viewed the remains and ordered the body held at Pou's undertaking parlors for identification.

**George Morgan Drowned.**  
George Morgan, a fisherman and ex-marine, was among the drowned. His body was found yesterday afternoon in the western portion of the city underneath a pile of timber. Searching parties saw the arm of the man protruding from underneath the timber and recovered the body with difficulty.

**Body at Barclay's Point.**  
The body of some unknown man was seen yesterday afternoon near Barclay's point, in the eastern section of the city. The parties who caught sight of the body could not recover it.

**Another Near Coyle Street.**  
Among the wreckage of timber, boats, etc., near Coyle street late yesterday evening searching parties saw the body of a white man. The waves were constantly breaking over the wreckage, however, and the body could not be recovered, only portions of it being occasionally visible.

## Graphic Description of Water Front Devastation

By W. C. Jones.

On the water front from Tarragona street to Muscogee wharf is a section of the city which it is impossible to describe with any degree of accuracy; an attempt even, at description is paralyzing to the senses. Misery, destitution, want, is staring several hundred people in the face who lost their homes and their all in the terrific maelstrom of Wednesday night and yesterday morning. Every foot of the beach from Tarragona street to the foot of Muscogee wharf is one continuous tangled mass of debris—full of roofs and sides of dwellings, household furnishings of every description, wreckage from sea-going craft of every variety and every rig, lumber, timber, unbroken bundles of shingles, merchandise of every kind, uprooted trees, trunks and branches—everything in fact that could go to make up a scene of destitution and desolation is piled pell-mell, helter-skelter, on that stretch of water front.

Between H. C. D'Silva & Co.'s planing mill and Florida Blanca street the homes of the following were utterly demolished: Jack Southland, James Sinderscott, William Graves, Charles Mertins, Charles Brown, W. Ford, Charles Hurd, Henry Powell, George Pope, William Gebhart and J. G. Anderson. Not a vestige of any of these homes remain today to identify their location yesterday. Every bath house in the bathing district is demolished and on East Zarragossa street between Florida Blanca and Cavallos streets, every home, including that of Mayor Bliss, is more or less damaged, while the home of Frank Sigari is entirely destroyed.

On East Government street between Cavallos street and Ninth avenue the homes of Dr. Wilmer Hall, James Jadrevich, Theodore Schoenheit, Mr. Griffin, Mose Chisholm, (colored,) and Gus Jackson, (colored) are in ruins. From the end of East Government street to Muscogee wharf is a scene of wreckage and ruin which would baffle the ablest descriptive writer alive to adequately portray. In this section the old Wright Mill, now the property of the

Escambia Land and Manufacturing Co., is located. What was yesterday a practically new sawmill with a capacity of a hundred thousand feet of lumber daily, with a magnificent system of wharves and storage sheds and a planing plant equipped with the most modern machinery, is today a confused mass of broken machinery, tangled debris and broken, battered lumber. The ruin of this, one of Pensacola's most important manufacturing plants, simply beggars description.

**Muscogee Wharf.**  
Built at enormous cost to withstand the most savage onslaught of the elements it was thought possible to be visited upon Pensacola. It still stands, but how battered and bruised it is! Pounding against Muscogee wharf were three wrecked barks while in the slip between the wharf and Wright's Mill lie stranded in what will be when the storm subsides three to five feet of water two other barks of a thousand or more tons burden each, two more barks—in all there are five ships wrecks at Muscogee wharf and in the back yards of Wm. Wilmer Hall and Fred Schoenheit the fishing smack A. J. Chapman lies on her beam ends a hopeless wreck. Hundreds of thousands of dollars is the pecuniary loss sustained between Tarragona street and Muscogee wharf; the sentimental value of innumerable keepsakes and heirlooms lost by the score of families whose all was destroyed, is incalculable.

That there has already been acute suffering by the unfortunates of this section is indubitable; that this suffering will be intensified by time is inevitable. There should be relief provided at once.

### STUCK TO HIS POST WITH A BROKEN ARM

During the worst of the hurricane Police Officer Eberidge slipped and fell on the sidewalk on his beat, but notwithstanding the fact that he broke his arm he stuck at his post of duty until other officers could be secured to relieve him.

lief authority which will use it. The Journal also has a check from W. A. D'Alemberte for \$25.00 for this relief fund. The work of relief should commence at once—this morning. The Journal's relief fund will help start it, and this paper will be glad to receive other subscriptions during the day for that fund, or if more convenient, they can be paid at any of the city banks. But above all things, let us act now.

## MANY BUSINESS HOUSES BADLY DAMAGED

Awnings and Roofs Torn Down and Plate Glass Windows Demolished.

**STOCKS IN MANY OF THE PALAFOX STREET STORES SUFFERED SEVERELY FROM WATER—LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS DAMAGED.**

From the wharf north to Wright street on Palafox, there is hardly a building that escaped damage and in many instances the losses will be heavy, as the roofs were blown from many of them, and the driving rain damaged stocks to a great extent. Probably the firm of William Johnson & Son will be the heaviest loser by reason of the building being unroofed. The roof left the building at 2 a. m. and later the awning was also blown away. Mr. Johnson stated yesterday afternoon that he could not at that time estimate the damage, which was principally to the clothing and shoe departments. The following buildings have been damaged to greater or less extent, but the damage to the stocks by water cannot be ascertained as yet:

Bar Pilots, roof damaged, also balcony broken.  
Hannah building, roof gone, windows broken.  
A. Zellus, both roof and awning.  
Old Morasso residence, roof and balcony gone, place badly damaged.  
Old Cosgrove shops, almost totally destroyed.  
C. Stanavatin, awning and glass.  
Mrs. Kate Fay, roof and balcony.  
McK. Oerting, roof.  
A. LiLustro, roof and balcony.  
Bay Hotel, balcony, portions of roof and windows broken.  
J. E. Concanon & Co., roof.  
Klien Grocery Co., slight damage roof.  
H. O. Anson, roof slightly damaged.  
Cashman's pawn shop, roof and awning.  
S. A. Friedman, roof.  
M. Danneheiser, roof.  
Knowles Bros., roof and balcony.  
First National Bank, roof.  
Merchants Hotel, roof, balconies and windows broken.  
N. Apostle, roof and other damage.  
Fisher Building, roof completely stripped.  
Old Armory Hall, roof stripped.  
Wm. Johnson & Son, roof, awning.  
Clutter Music Store, roof and balcony completely gone, and glass broken.  
F. E. Brawner, awning and other damage.  
Peoples Bank, awning.  
Hooten & Watson, awning.  
Brent building, awning of entire building destroyed and other slight damage.  
Old Armory Hall, roof stripped.  
New Method Laundry, roof damaged.  
Kress Store, plate glass window broken.  
Standard Clothing Co., plate glass window broken.  
Avery Hardware Co., awning gone.  
Oerting Bakery, awning damaged.  
Court house, with exception of two or three all fine trees blown down, roofs damaged and glass broken, chimneys gone.  
Escambia Hotel, roof damaged, windows broken.  
St. Michael's parsonage, chimneys

## MANY LIVES LOST AT FT. McRAE AND ALONG LOWER BAY

### WIND REACHED VELOCITY OF 88 MILES

At Time Center of Hurricane Was Passing Over

**DISTURBANCE WAS FIRST REPORTED OFF YUCATAN AND LATER OFF WEST COAST OF CUBA—BAROMETER BEGAN TO RISE AT 5 A. M. THURSDAY.**

The storm which wrought such havoc in Pensacola Wednesday night and Thursday was first reported by the United States Weather Bureau off the coast of Yucatan and was reported off the western coast of Cuba on Monday moving in a northerly direction. Ample warning was given all vessels and as a consequence many that were ready to sail remained in port. The general course of storms that are reported moving northerly off the western coast of Cuba at this time of the year is more to the northeast than north and, as Pensacola has been lucky in the past in escaping tropical hurricanes, it was not believed that the full force of the storm would be felt in this vicinity, although it was a foregone conclusion that high winds would prevail over this section during Wednesday and Thursday.

Although the storm began to manifest itself at an early hour on Wednesday morning it was not until the wind reached a velocity of 23 miles an hour at noon that any apprehension was felt. Between 1 and 2 o'clock the velocity was 25 miles per hour and by 3 o'clock the wind was howling along at the rate of 27 miles an hour. From then until midnight the increase in velocity was constant and at midnight the gale had reached a velocity of 55 miles an hour from the northeast. The highest recorded velocity was 88 miles an hour between 3 and 4 o'clock Thursday morning. The storm center passed between 12 and 5 a. m., Thursday and the barometer, which had reached its lowest point, 29.13 inches, at 5 a. m., began to rise. The hourly velocity of the wind from midnight Wednesday to noon on Thursday was as follows:

Time.	Direction.	Miles.
12 to 1	N.E.	55
1 to 2	E.	64
2 to 3	E.	68
3 to 4	E.	74
4 to 5	S.E.	68
5 to 6	S.E.	67
6 to 7	S.E.	62
7 to 8	S.E.	60
8 to 9	S.E.	55
9 to 10	S.E.	52
10 to 11	S.E.	52
11 to 12	S.E.	53

The storm was the most severe that Pensacola has ever experienced considering the length of duration. On July 7, 1896, the wind reached a velocity of 100 miles per hour, but the storm was of comparatively short duration. At that time the barometric pressure was 28.33 inches. During Wednesday night the total precipitation was 3.8 inches, and during the height of the storm the instrument house of the weather bureau, on top of the custom house, was blown away.

All trees, with few exceptions in parkway from Garden to Wright, up rooted.  
On Wright street from Palafox to the union depot, a number of the fine shade trees are uprooted and residences slightly damaged.  
Union depot and surrounding buildings apparently did not suffer to any great extent.

### HARROWING TALE OF DEATH AND DISASTER

Remnants of Fort's Occupants Lashed to Big Guns on Batteries.

### THREE WOMEN AND ONE CHILD PERISH

Women and Children of Warrington are at Naval Hospital.

THEY ARE DESTITUTE OF PROVISIONS, WITH NO WAY TO DRY CLOTHES OR TO KEEP WARM AND HELP IS NEEDED AT ONCE.

A terrible tale of loss of life, human suffering, and destruction of property at Fort McRae and other points near the mouth of the harbor was brought to The Journal last night by three men of the 20th company, stationed at Fort Barrancas.

These men, Sergeant J. M. Palmer, Corporal H. E. Elder and Cook Wm. M. Welch left Fort Barrancas at noon and after a terrible trip reached Pensacola at 6:15 last night. They reported that everything at Fort McRae, except the batteries was gone and that three women, two children and several men who were stationed there had lost their lives. The drowned were:

**The Drowned.**  
ORDINANCE SERGEANT. PRENTICE, WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, ELECTRICIAN SERGEANT COOK AND WIFE, AND THE LATTER'S SISTER, MISS BESSIE BONNER. SERGEANT HAMMOND. QUARTERMASTER. SERGEANT OVERLANDER. COOK HADDON.

Eighteen others started across the lagoon on a raft and only four are known to have survived, they having reached Fort Barrancas. The whole of the 22nd company, under Lieutenant Edwards, was stationed at McRae and the last seen of the surviving members they were clinging to the mortar battery over which the waves were breaking fiercely.

Miss Bessie Bonner, when last seen, was on top of the water tank, clinging to it. The body of Mrs. Prentice was washed ashore in the morning near the light house.

At one time seventeen persons were seen through a glass clinging to the top of the water tower, and Capt. Douglass, of the 20th company, at Fort Barrancas, ran a field gun down the beach below the light house and tried to shoot a line to the water tower but failed to reach them.

There were 80 men in all stationed at McRae and it is believed that fully one-third of them have been drowned.

### SOME OF LIFE SAVING CREW PROBABLY LOST

The men reported that the life saving station was washed away, and probably some of the crew were lost, although several had gotten to the navy yard in safety. Fifteen cars marked U. S. L. S. S. were picked up in the morning on the beach near the navy yard.

### ONLY ONE MAN SAVED FROM FISHING SMACK

When the storm began the fishing smack Colt was anchored between the navy yard and Fort Pickens, out the smack now lies on the beach near

(Continued on Page Eight.)